

THE TRUE
CHARACTER
OF AN
ORDINANCE
OF
PARLIAMENT
in generall.

Written by *Tbo. Tel-troth*, Clerk to the long-
abused Commons in *England, Scotland*
and *Ireland*.

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N Ordinance of Parliament (without the
Royall assent) is an illegitimate Monster,
or State-bastard, begotten between *Pride*
and *Disobedience*, and forc'd upon the Com-
mon-wealth to keep: It hath so many fa-
thers, that one cannot tell who had the
greatest share in begetting it, unless the Devil the father of
Lies, who is the grand cause of its Production; It enters into
the world in a confused and monstrous shape, not much un-
like to a *Bear-whelp*, which some Knave or Promoting
Varlet in a City or Company licks into a *forme*, and so

draws it up, or apparells it in the Cobweb-lawne Ranges of his own ignorance, folly, madnesse or Knavery, till it be dres'd up, and made ready to be presented to the gods of this world, to be ~~dispell'd~~ or sprinkled; The God-fathers consist most of Commons, and many times, of LORDS and COMMONS; the Gollips are Mrs. Trouble-state, and Mrs. Wood-have-all; The Holy Synod, (that are alwayes too officious to undoe the poor Common-wealth,) sprinkles it, and prays over it, which besides THE ORDINANCE (God save us from a gun) which this young babe of grace, (in stead of Crossing,) is mark'd withall in the fore-head when it receives the adoption, with a new Ceremony or Subscription at the tayl, made by the Clerk, HEI. That hereafter it may not be ashamed to fight under their banners. All which Ceremonies being performed, it is committed to the care of that learned Typographist E. Husbands to be schooled, or taught to speak plain English at his school on Addings Hill: He many times hath a lease of his life, and continues sometimes a yeer, sometimes more, and sometimes lesse; he hath a numerous issue, and all named alike; Ordinance is a common Name for them all; onely their sir-names are all as different as their natures, for there is such disparity between them; that they seldom agree in one and the same thing; therefore it is not much amisse to ranck them in order.

Ordinance for raising men under the E. of Essex, to murder his Majesties Loyall Subjects, as if then our happy peaceable estate under the government of so pious, good and mercifull a Prince, (that all Christiendom cannot paralell) had procur'd such an universall Plague, that nothing could cure the same but the sword, to lee out the very heart-blood of his ~~most~~ the Common-wealth, to the utter ruine of millions, both in lives and Estates.

Ordinance for the Earl of Straffords blood, written in so red a Character, and cry'd so low'd to heaven for Justice, that it immediately brought the Plague of the bloody-issue over all Island, nay and England too; *Vox sanguinis fratrum vestrorum clamat de terra.* The voice of the blood of their murdered brethren.

thre cryeth out of the earth against them: And this vice it
is that hath had so powerfull and forceable a working a-
gainst them.

The Ordinance to butcher the Bishop of Camerbury, so eagerly
prosecuted by the over-blinde zeal, hate, and malice of his
cruell persecuters, that the rather wrought home their own
Plagues, then that *Martyrs* punishment, when they preferred
him to more Titles, and greater glory by putting him to
death; When they condemned him, then they crown'd him,
when they killed him, then they gave him life, when they
spoiled him, even then they enriched him. *Plus est effusum, quo-
ties, melius a vobis, semper est sanguis Christi amarus.* Our number
increaseth so often as you reape us, and the seed of the Church
is the blood of Christians. The more the Children of Israel were
oppressed, the more they increased, and so it is in all true Pro-
testants, as Saint Augustine saith, 22 de civitat. cap. 7. *Resurrectio
immortalitatis pullulat secundum, cum in Martirum sanguine se-
rretur.* The resurrection of Immortality sprong more fertily,
when it was sown in the blood of *Martyrs*; The sweet spice
yeeldeth the better scent when it is bruited or pounded; when
you persecute such *Men*, you but till & manure the ground of the
Church; and though you think by such means to root out
her corn, you but sow seed, that soon after will spring with a
more glorious and plentiful harvest. I might enlarge my
self much upon this subject, and tell you of many other things
that are not halfe so strange as true, to remember you of one
Tomkins, Challenger, His Majesties *Attorney*, and many others,
that dy'd with no more Law, then you your selves had Gospel
when you condemned them: These are all notch'd upon your
Parliamentally, and must for certain (in the end) come to a
strict reckoning.

The great confusion of these mens sufferings inciteth all
Loyall Subjects to look the more stedfastly into their Cause,
that so by seeking they may finde, understand, and beleieve,
and becom'e all as ready to die in the just Cause of to good a
King, as these men did.

If you daily devise to vex and grieve his Majestie with your
sedition

*p*erfusions, which your selves know before you frame them, that it standeth not with his Majesties honor, neither can he signe unto them without danger of a *perjur'd conscience*, that must needs render him as odious both to God and all honest men, as your selves are, for the breach of your severall Oathes of *Allegiance* unto him; or if you carry this *Royall Ark* to any one of your four *Prisons*, (as the report goeth) you must expect *plagie-fores, swellings, risings, and blanes* breaking forth too; it will not be the fear of *Prisons, Racking, Hanging, Drawing, nay grinding to pieces* that will affright thousand of thousands of *Loyall Subjects* from their obedience to His Majestie; all the *Tyranny* you can invent, or inflict upon us, shall be but a testimony and proof of our *Allegiance and Fidelity* to our *Gracious Sovereigne*, that God hath placed over us; so long as that impregnable *Fort Royall* holds out, there is not the least doubt of *Victory*, since it is so strongly fortified with *Grace*, and arm'd with the compleat armor of *Righteousnesse*, man'd with *Angels*, whose chief Governour is the Lord of Hosts, in whose hand the *heart of the King* is: If Sir *Thomas* lay siege to this *Fort*, (as God forbid) hee loofe more men before it, then ever the *Conqueror* did before *Bazing-house*: But I hope better of that Noble Generall; and am perswaded, that though never so many rebellious *Monsters* should rise up against Him, and should imbrue their bloody and cruel hands in the fresh bleeding wounds of *Him* and his *Loyall Subjects*, and make never so loud a noyse of victory, yet when it cometh to the proof, God will shew them (by full experience) that all the noyse and sound of victory, was but the sound of their own fall and ruine; and his Majestie appear the more glorious, and His *Honor* not one whit hurt thereby, but much bettered by their treachery.

Ordinances for *Contributions, Assessments, Excises, Sequestrations*, and an infinite many more force *free-quarter* from the poor *Common-wealth*, and a thousand firks to pump her dry, and drain all her money into their own *Coffers*, their notorious ingratitude to the *City of London*; that so long have upon all pretended occasions whatsoever, emptied not onely their veins
of

of blood, but their coffers of money) that so they might in-
able themselves to undoe the Countrey; and when the Coun-
trei lies languishing in misery, and past recovery, then to un-
doe the Citie, imprison the Lord *Majr* (His Majesties Lieu-
tenant) of the City, with the Aldermen, the chief Merchants
and upholders of *Trade* and *commerce*, which must at the best
prove but an utter undoing of us all in general, both *City* and
Countrey, both desperately sick, even unto an universall *judge-*
ment, and must both taste of His Majesties *cup* : Lord look up-
on Him and us, for we are all in great slavery, even whilst they
pretend *liberty*, we are daily *bound* : the *cure* of our *disease* hath
proved fatall, and worse then the disease it self; for we have
bowed our necks to a *heavy yoke*, and are in worse then *Egyp-*
tian slavery.

New *Monopolies* are every day invented, and farmed out to
Promoting *catterpillars*, even for Printing *Pamphlets* forsooth;
Pamphlet-Symmonny for a yeer and a day, to print the learned
Works of the *Agitators*.

Ordinance for suppressing *unlicensed Pamphlets*, must *truth* be
licensed, and *lies* authorized : *Goap Gilbert*, five shillings a peny
Pamphlet, must the Presse be shut up to all but *Walker*, eldest son
to the *father of lies* : Clerk, Preacher, Ironmonger, Bookseller,
Poetaster, and all too little to maintaine so goatish a *teacher*;
must *Hunscott*, that old griz'd *thief* come to his old trade of
breaking open houses, as lately hee hath done, and under
pretence of searching for *unlicensed books*, take, steale and car-
ry away what ere they can lay hands on, and be protected by
Ordinance? must *power* be intrusted in the hands of such notori-
ously known villanes, the very scum of mankind, and excre-
ment of decayed *nature*, that *rake hell*, and *scum the devil*, (as the
proverb goeth) you will hardly find two the like for all man-
ner of sorded villanies, not to be equalled : these two hounds,
with carret-beard *Lewis*, a whelp of the same litter, hunt up
and down continually, seeking whom they may devour : It were
well that all honest men would take notice of these *Curses*,
and lend a helping hand to muzzle them, else poor *Tell-troath*
will be worried even to death, and then the abused *Common-*
alty

a'ty may be still led blind-fold by the nose to more new taxes
 yet? New Assessments and *penalties* laid upon those that refuse
 the pay: •ent thereof, or to staine presently for the same? Is
 this the Liberty of the Subject, purchased with so much blood and
 sweat, and that hath cost us so much money? Shall not poor
Tel-trouth think ye be imprisoned 40. dayes in the common-
 jyle, for his sawcy blabbing, thus boldly too? Must he pay
 40. shillings for speaking *truth*, that now is forc'd to sanctuary
 her self in corners and *holes*; walk in the dark for fear of per-
 cuters, lame, cold, and clad in ragges? Do you think to *Order*
 or *Order* any thing so closely, that it shall not be one day re-
 vealed, and laid open as cleer as the *Sun*; at which great *As-*
sizes, and Higher Court of *Parliament*, many of you (it is much
 to be feared) will be committed to the Prison on the *left-hand*
 for a longer terme then *fourty-dayes*: Understanding men be-
 lieve that *truth* hath rubb'd many of your *guilt'd backs*, that
 you kick and winch thns? *Truth* feares no colours, though
 you set on all your *Procurators*, *Beardles*, and the *Devil* and all
 upon her, she will at length prevail, and maugre all your ma-
 lice: in the mean time she dispaireth not of some friends,
 to help and comfort her, in despight of *Iron-face*, or the lear-
 ned *Stationer* at the *Exchange*, that would have set out a
 whole Troop at his own charge to foment a new war; surely
 the very same wise *Common-counsell-man*, put this new Ordi-
 nance for *Pamphlets* into its swadling-clouts; for himself and
 his honest Brethren must pay but 10s. for selling of them, and
 the poor man that carries them about the streets, must be
 whipt for a Roague: Merciful Ordinance! and why not he
 whipt as well that sells unlicensed books in his shop, as he
 that sells them in the street, they both offend alike; and for
 ought I know, the poor man may be the honester man of the
 two. But he that prints them must have his *Press* defac'd;
 alas! poor harmlesse things, you must be degraded too, and
 made for ever incapable of printing, though your masters,
 with their wives and families starve in the streets, for want of
 bread.

Order in ce for the Twentieth parts then why not the 18, 19; and
 so

so consequently all the rest; for that *power* that commands a part of our *Estates*, will not spare the rest upon occasion; This the King told us once, but we wanted the grace then to believe Him; but now all is gone, it is too late to shut the *Rable-doore*.

Ord. for Tythes; The *Synod* have as good stomachs as *Bells Priests*; the *tenths* of the Kingdom will not suffice them, and 4s. a day to boot: O intollerable; The *mercy* of God, and the *covetousness* of the priest is without end: The *tenths* of right belong to the fatherlesse, the stranger and widow, yet *Sir John* would have all, or else to prison, and there ly without *bay'e* or *mainprise*, till the utmost farthing be paid, though the poor wretches have not bread to help themselves and children, 'tis all one to them, they shew you no other reason, but the *Ordinance* for all.

Ord. for the Directory; The *Service-book* out of date; what new Religion next must we expect, *Shakers*? the Soldiers had the wit to cast *dice*, lest they should rend the *seamlesse* coat of our Saviour; Get you some *dice*, and cast too for shame; should the *seamlesse* coat or Church fall, to *Dr. Buges*, what a goodly portion would it be to feast him and his *Compurgators*; or to *Dr. Gouge*; and hee'd take use for it, as he doth his money; or to *D. Sybalds*, 'twill help pay for nursing his illegitimate children; Or to *Mr. Sedwick*, 'twill doe him the feat now, and anon too, and bring that *Great Work* to a speedyer end. Good God rescue thy *Vineyard* from such *Bawes*, that root up her *Vines*, and divide her tender clusters of *grapes*; deliver thy *Susanna* from the hands of these wicked *Elders*, these diseased pieces of *Apocrypha*, that no sooner are bound up with the *Bible*, but they corrupt the whole *Text*: Ignorance and fat feeding are their belt *founders*; and their life but a borrowed blaste of *winde*; for between two Religions, (as between two doors) they are alwayes whistling: Where the *gate* stands open, they will alwayes be seeking a *steele*; and where their *learning* ought to *climbe*, they must *creep thorrow*; give them *advice*, you run presently into *Traditions*, and urge a modest course, they cry out *Councells*; and cannot abide to dispute in any place, but
Where

Where the meat is best, there they confute most; for their arguing is but the efficacy of their eating; They can better afford you ten lies then one Oath; and dare commit any sin, so it be gilded over with *presences of sanctitie*; They will not stick to commit fornication, so it be done sincerely, and for the propagation of the godly; and hate no *whore* so much as the *whore of Babylon*. They hold it lawfull to *steale*, so it be from the wicked. They are of so good discourse, that they dare challenge the Almighty, to talke with them *ex tempore*; Lastly their devotion is O *finacy*, the onely solace of their hearts *contradiction*, and the main end of their sitting, *consultations* and debates, nothing else but *hypocrysie*.

Ordinance to grant the Boyes a Holy-day, and the thankfull boyes, in requitall, to force the Parliament to make two or three: The King signed to a *trienial Parliament*, the Synod praid it into an *everlasting-Parliament*, to requite His Majestie: Sir Thomas and his *Agitators* will make it a *bienniall Parliament*, or put a period to the same; and thus all things are out of square, and subiect to change and *mutabillity*, and nothing under the Sun firm and permanent, and man more unstable, then any other of the creatures, and is not what he seems to be, his understanding is intricate and full of windings: he is the *prima materia*, and his intents give him form; hee dyeth his *means* and his *meaning* into two *colours*, hee baits *craft* with *humility*, and his countenance is the present *disposition*. He winnes not by *battery*; but *undermining*, and his rack is *soothing*. He knoweth *passion* onely by *sufferance*, and *resisteth* by *obeying*. He makes his *time* an Accountant to his memorie, and of the humors of men; weaveth *nets* for his own occasions.

*This Character is licensed according to Order, by Tom Fel-
troach, Cler. to the long-used COMMONS.*

F T N I S.

